

**Listing of claims**

1. (currently amended) An electric storage battery including:
  - a case comprising a peripheral wall defining an interior volume; and
  - an electrode assembly mounted in said interior volume, said electrode assembly including:
    - an electrically conductive elongate pin; and
    - first and second opposite polarity electrode strips wound together to form a spiral roll, each electrode strip having inner and outer ends, wherein said first electrode strip is electrically coupled to said pin at said inner end; and
    - a hollow elongate mandrel closely fitted around said pin ~~for mechanically reinforcing said pin.~~
2. (original) The battery of claim 1 wherein said pin extends exteriorly of said case peripheral wall to function as a first battery terminal.
3. (original) The battery of claim 1 wherein said mandrel is electrically coupled to said pin.
4. (original) The battery of claim 1 wherein said first electrode strip inner end is directly connected to said pin by at least one weld.
5. (original) The battery of claim 1 wherein said pin consists of a PtIr alloy.
6. (original) The battery of claim 1 further comprising a first end cap mounted on said pin, said first end cap including an electrical insulator; and wherein said pin extends through and is hermetically sealed to said end cap electrical insulator.
7. (original) The battery of claim 1 wherein said mandrel defines an elongate slot; and wherein
  - said first electrode strip extends through said mandrel slot.
8. (currently amended) The battery of claim ~~A1~~ 1 wherein said mandrel is welded to said pin.

9. (currently amended) The battery of claim A1 1 wherein said mandrel comprises titanium or an alloy thereof.

10-65 (cancelled)

66. (new) The battery of claim 1 wherein said mandrel is crimped to said pin.